

CONGRATULATING RUSS BERRIE
ON BEING NAMED HONORARY
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Russ Berrie on being named Honorary Citizen of the Year by the Oakland (New Jersey) Republican Club. Mr. Berrie's millions of dollars of contributions to a wide variety of worthy causes makes him one of the most active and prominent philanthropists in our state. In fact, *Fortune* magazine has called him one of the 40 most generous people in the nation. But Mr. Berrie is appreciated for more than just his monetary contributions. This Citizen of the Year award reflects his sincere concern about the well being of the community and his true commitment to helping others. He has supported causes as varied as religion, medicine, education and the arts.

Mr. Berrie is chairman and chief executive officer of Russ Berrie and Company Inc., an internationally successful business empire specializing in novelty items and "lifestyle gifts." Mr. Berrie founded the company in 1963 while working as a manufacturer's representative. Today, it is the premier company in its field worldwide, with offices and distribution centers in Cranbury, New Jersey; Petaluma, Calif.; Canada and England. The firm also has offices in Hong Kong, China, Korea and Taiwan. It has 1,600 employees around the globe.

In addition to running a successful business, Mr. Berrie devotes his talents and energy to a number of charitable causes. Most recently, his many contributions have included a \$5 million donation to the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation and \$13.5 million for the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.

In addition, he has supported the Russell and Angelica Berrie Early Childhood Wing at the Jewish Community Center on the Palisades, the Russ Berrie Building for the Center for Strategic Studies at the College of Judea and Samaria in Israel, and the Angelica and Russell Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College. I am particularly proud to have worked with Mr. Berrie on the Center for Performing and Visual Arts project, which was partly funded by a \$500,000 grant I obtained from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He and Mrs. Berrie have been staunch supporters of Ramapo College.

Mr. Berrie has also established the Russell Berrie Foundation, which sponsors the "Making a Difference Award" to recognize unsung New Jersey heroes who have made contributions to their communities or performed heroic acts.

Chairman of the Center for Inter-religious Understanding, Mr. Berrie also serves on the boards of New York University's Leonard Stern School of Business, United Retail Group, the Jewish Community Center and the John Harms Center for the Arts. He has received almost two dozen awards and honorary degrees from universities, cities, religious groups and organizations across the country.

Mr. Berrie and his wife, Angelica, live in Englewood. They have six children.

Mr. Berrie is an outstanding example of a philanthropist. His kindness and generosity have benefited thousands in fields from education to medicine to the arts. He has taken the saying "share the wealth" to heart, and seen to it that his success in business helps countless others as well. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to congratulate Mr. Berrie on being named Honorary Citizen of the Year and in wishing him the best for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. JAMES
HABERKOST

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Rev. James Haberkost, a dedicated pastor in my district who is celebrating his 40th anniversary of service to the Lutheran Church.

Pastor Haberkost is a 1959 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. That same year he was ordained and installed as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Streamwood, IL., where he served the congregation for 21 years. In August of 1980, Pastor Haberkost began work at St. John's Lutheran Church in La Grange, IL. While Pastor of Grace Congregation, Pastor Haberkost also found the time to serve as part-time Lutheran Chaplain at the Illinois State Training School for Boys at St. Charles. In addition to his duties as Pastor of St. John's Church, he has served on the Northern Illinois Board for Missions and the Town & Country Committee of the District, and led devotions twice a month on WTAQ in LaGrange, until the radio station was sold. Reverend Haberkost proceeds to serve as the senior Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church. The church congregation and school both continue to rapidly increase in number and faith.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Rev. James Haberkost for his many years of commitment and dedication to the church, school, and community. I extend to him my best wishes for many more years of quality service in his noble vocation.

RECOGNITION OF ASHAWAY LINE
AND TWINE MANUFACTURING
COMPANY—175 YEARS OF
SUCCESSFUL SMALL BUSINESS

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ashaway Line and Twine Manufacturing Company, a family-owned firm in Ashaway, Rhode Island, which celebrates 175 years of successful small business this June.

Six generations of the Crandall family have owned and operated this company since its inception in 1824 at its Laurel Street headquarters in Ashaway. Today, it is one of the oldest family-owned companies in the United States and exemplifies this country's proud tradition of manufacturing and innovation. Over the course of the last 175 years, the

company has gone from a local fishing line supplier to a global seller of medical threads, tennis strings, and other specialized lines.

In recent times, we have all heard many disheartening stories of manufacturing plant closings in communities around the country. Some of these firms were unable to compete in the new global marketplace; luckily for the citizens of Ashaway and the Line and Twine's customers, the Crandall family has always been able to adapt to the changing times and remain open for business. Its products are now sold to sixty countries, and fifty percent of its business is currently done outside the United States. The company has discovered new and creative uses for its products, including special strings for NASA to sew up its space suits, and movie props for Hollywood. Because of this resourcefulness and innovative spirit, eighty-seven employees continue to work today at the Ashaway Line and Twine Manufacturing Company plant, operating the 3,000 machines that braid lines, and dyeing and packaging the strings.

The Crandall family and the Ashaway Line and Twin Manufacturing Company are planning an anniversary celebration for June of this year to recognize and thank their many customers and dedicated employees. I would like to take this opportunity to extend the same gratitude to the family and the firm for their loyalty to the community of Ashaway and the state of Rhode Island. Please join with me in the recognition of one of the oldest family-owned manufacturing firms in this country, and let us always remember the incalculable contribution such companies have made and continue to make to this great nation.

HONORING HEAR O'ISRAEL OF
HOUSTON, TX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a valued organization within the Houston community, Hear O'Israel, which is sponsoring Listen to the Cries of the Children National during the month of April 1999. Hear O'Israel works to make a difference in the lives of the disabled, battered and abused women, the elderly and young people across Houston. They work to give these men and women a stronger sense of self-worth and instill in them the need to treat others with compassion and respect. The following resolution approved by the Houston City Council demonstrates the high regard for Hear O'Israel in our community.

LISTEN TO THE CRIES OF THE CHILDREN
NATIONAL

A non-profit, non denominational organization, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed its Listen to the Cries of the Children National campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families. The campaign's goal is "for everyone to Hear and Listen to the cries; stop violence; have mercy, love, and compassion for our fellow man, and turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the